



Fire Update

Meadow Fire

**Nez Perce
National Forest**

September 14, 2006 9:00 am

Internet Address: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc>

or: <http://www.inciweb.org>

For Fire Information Phone: (208) 842-9225 open 8 am to 9 pm

For Immediate Release

Fire Facts

The Meadow Fire is managed by Doug Turman's Northern Rockies Incident Management Team.

Date Started: September 3, 2006 **Cause of Ignition:** lightning **Location:** Red River, Idaho

Size: 7,000 acres **Percent Contained:** 10% **Estimated Time of Containment:** Unknown

Number of Personnel: 132 **Equipment:** 1 feller buncher, 1 dozer, 1 skidgine, 6 engines, 3 water tenders, 2 excavators, 1 brush cutter

Aircraft: Shared air resources with the Nez Perce NF and other surrounding large fires

20-person crews: 2, including, 1 Hotshot crew

Cost to date: \$1,000,000 **Injuries Today:** 0

Cooperators: Idaho County Sheriff's Department, Idaho County Emergency Management Services, Nez Perce National Forest

Cooler Temperatures Influence Fire Activity on the Meadow Fire

Red River, Idaho –Fire activity on Wednesday moved the fire closer to the Magruder Corridor (Montana Road). The areas of the fire that spotted across the line in the western perimeter on Wednesday continued to burn lightly with single tree torching continuing. The spots that occurred on the southeast flank of the fire between Fourmile Creek drainage and Granite Creek Campground moved through heavy ground fuels with single tree torching. As a result of this movement, acreage on the Meadow Fire grew another 300 acres, and the size of the fire is now at 7,000 acres.

Two 20-person crews and one water tender finished mopup on the Baker Fire southwest of Elk City.

The Incident Command Post for the Meadow Fire is located at Red River Ranger Station and the fire camp is located at York's field. Local residents are encouraged to reduce speeds due to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Yesterday's Fire Activities

On the west edge of the fire perimeter where the fire jumped the line several days ago, crews worked to contain the slop over and patrolled the line to keep the fire east of Forest Road 1172. Patrol and monitoring activities were supported by engines and water tenders to prevent the fire from moving further downslope into Red River. Sprinkler systems, hoses and pumps around residences in the area between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs were maintained. Fuels reduction efforts continued around residences. Crews and equipment continued to support structure protection efforts on the northwest side of the fire closest to private land. The fire continued to slowly burn downslope into the Red River drainage within the fire perimeter. Portions of the fire experienced ground fire with limited torching. There have been no evacuations during this fire event.

Facilities protection remains in place at 14 Mile Trailhead, Granite Springs Campground and Green Mountain Lookout. The fire has burned to within several hundred yards of Granite Springs Campground, with spot fires continuing

to grow along the south and southeast flanks of the fire through heavy dead and down bug killed timber toward the Magruder Corridor.

Today's Planned Events

Today's primary emphasis will continue to be firefighter and public safety. Crews will continue to focus on structure protection and finish up hazard fuel reduction activities around residences along Forest Road 234 between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs.

Crews will continue to work on containing the hot spots that jumped the hand and equipment line on the west finger of the fire's perimeter with support from one engine and a skidgine. The number one hazard continues to be snags and green trees with weakened root systems from fire damage. Engines will patrol along the Montana Road to catch any spot fires as the fire has moved closer to that road in several locations over the past several days.

Today's Weather Forecast and Fire Behavior

Weather continues to change around the fire area. The combination of higher humidity, lower temperatures and light precipitation will dampen fire activity. Today is expected to be cloudy with a little rain early in the day then partial clearing with a chance of showers. Maximum temperatures should be around 48-53 degrees in the fire area with 40-45% relative humidity. Wind on the fire is expected to be 5-10 mph increasing to 8-12 mph with peak gusts as high as 20 mph.

Weather outlook for Friday is for cooler temperatures with highs in the upper 40's to lower 50s on the fire. There is a chance of showers early in the day on Friday and likely in the afternoon into the night. Lowest humidity's will be around 40-50% with northwest winds 10-15 mph. Possible snow in the higher elevations could be expected.

Ground vegetation under the tree canopy is still dry and will contribute to single tree torching with minimal spotting, if any. Expect minor burning activity with creeping and smoldering fire beneath the canopy along the fire perimeter and in areas where the fire has encountered forest regeneration with a lesser amount of dead and down woody component. These areas should still serve as effective barriers to fire spread.

Area, Road and Trail Closures

For public safety, an area closure is currently in effect throughout the area surrounding the fire, including areas where the fire is most likely to spread as it becomes more active. Access to the forest is closed at the following locations: Forest Road 234 (except to local residents) and the Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) at the Red River Ranger Station to Poet Creek on the east side of the Magruder Corridor; and Road 423 to Black Hawk Mountain. The closure is not expected to be lifted until fire conditions improve. Visit the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc> or www.inciweb.org for maps and other information about the closure. Specific questions about the closure can be directed to the Red River Ranger Station at (208) 842-2245.

Other Messages

Hunters and other recreationists need to be alert for dead standing trees or snags that may fail, especially during windy periods. The public also should be reminded to be on the lookout for smoke from holdover lightning strikes from last week's storms that may show up, and report them as soon as possible. These holdover lightning fires have been showing up every day for the past week. Hunters are also reminded to put all fires dead out, both camp fires and warming fires, so they don't contribute to additional fire starts. Fire crews and equipment are moving through the area and the public is asked to drive defensively as they travel through the Red River area.

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